

(b) Requests for review and determination may be made either orally or in writing to any investigator or any regional, district, or field office of the Wage and Hour Division or to the Administrator in Washington, DC 20210. Requests should be accompanied by a statement of tips received each week or each month over a representative period as reported by the employee to the employer for purposes of Internal Revenue Service reports. Such a request should also be accompanied by a statement showing the tip credit taken by the employer and any other information deemed pertinent by the petitioner. In any instance in which it appears that the tip credit claimed by the employer exceeds the amount of tips actually received by the tipped employee, the employer shall be apprised of the facts made available to the Wage and Hour Division and be afforded the opportunity to submit any evidence he may care to present in support of his claim for tip credit before a determination is made. Such determination shall be made by the official representative of the Wage and Hour Division assigned to make an investigation of the employing establishment.

**§ 531.8 Petitions to issue, amend, or repeal rules, including determinations, under this part.**

Any interested person may petition for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of rules, including determinations under this part. Any such petition shall be directed in writing to the Administrator. Any such petition shall include: (a) A declaration of the petitioner's interest in the proposed action; (b) a statement of the rule-making action sought; and (c) any data available in support of the petition. Whenever a petitioner seeks determination of "reasonable cost" or "fair value" the statement of rule-making sought shall contain the information required under § 531.4(b) or § 531.5(b), as the case may be.

**Subpart C—Interpretations**

**§ 531.25 Introductory statement.**

(a) The ultimate decisions on interpretations of the Act are made by the courts (*Mitchell v. Zachry*, 362 U.S. 310;

*Kirschbaum v. Walling*, 316 U.S. 517). Court decisions supporting interpretations contained in this subpart are cited where it is believed they may be helpful. On matters which have not been determined by the courts, it is necessary for the Secretary of Labor and the Administrator to reach conclusions as to the meaning and the application of provisions of the law in order to carry out their responsibilities of administration and enforcement (*Skidmore v. Swift*, 323 U.S. 134). In order that these positions may be made known to persons who may be affected by them, official interpretations are issued by the Administrator on the advice of the Solicitor of Labor, as authorized by the Secretary (Reorganization Plan 6 of 1950, 64 Stat. 1263; Gen. Order 45A, May 24, 1950, 15 FR 3290). The Supreme Court has recognized that such interpretations of this Act "provide a practical guide to employers and employees as to how the office representing the public interest in its enforcement will seek to apply it" and "constitute a body of experience and informed judgment to which courts and litigants may properly resort for guidance." Further, as stated by the Court: "Good administration of the Act and good judicial administration alike require that the standards of public enforcement and those for determining private rights shall be at variance only where justified by very good reasons." (*Skidmore v. Swift*, 323 U.S. 134.)

(b) The interpretations of the law contained in this subpart are official interpretations of the Department of Labor with respect to the application under described circumstances of the provisions of law which they discuss. The interpretations indicate, with respect to the methods of paying the compensation required by sections 6 and 7 and the application thereto of the provisions of section 3(m) of the Act, the construction of the law which the Secretary of Labor and the Administrator believe to be correct and which will guide them in the performance of their administrative duties under the Act unless and until they are otherwise directed by authoritative decisions of the courts or conclude, upon reexamination of an interpretation, that it is incorrect. Reliance may be placed upon

the interpretations as provided in section 10 of the Portal-to-Portal Act (29 U.S.C. 259) so long as they remain effective and are not modified, amended, rescinded, or determined by judicial authority to be incorrect. For discussion of section 10 of the Portal-to-Portal Act, see part 790 of this chapter.

**§ 531.26 Relation to other laws.**

Various Federal, State, and local legislation requires the payment of wages in cash; prohibits or regulates the issuance of scrip, tokens, credit cards, "dope checks" or coupons; prevents or restricts payment of wages in services or facilities; controls company stores and commissaries; outlaws "kick-backs"; restrains assignment and garnishment of wages; and generally governs the calculation of wages and the frequency and manner of paying them. Where such legislation is applicable and does not contravene the requirements of the Act, nothing in the Act, the regulations, or the interpretations announced by the Administrator should be taken to override or nullify the provisions of these laws.

HOW PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE

**§ 531.27 Payment in cash or its equivalent required.**

(a) Standing alone, sections 6 and 7 of the Act require payments of the prescribed wages, including overtime compensation, in cash or negotiable instrument payable at par. Section 3(m) provides, however, for the inclusion in the "wage" paid to any employee, under the conditions which it prescribes of the "reasonable cost," or "fair value" as determined by the Secretary, of furnishing such employee with board, lodging, or other facilities. In addition, section 3(m) provides that a tipped employee's wages may consist in part of tips. It is section 3(m) which permits and governs the payment of wages in other than cash.

(b) It should not be assumed that because the term "wage" does not appear in section 7, all overtime compensation must be paid in cash and may not be paid in board, lodging, or other facilities. There appears to be no evidence in either the statute or its legislative history which demonstrates the intention

to provide one rule for the payment of the minimum wage and another rule for the payment of overtime compensation. The principles stated in paragraph (a) of this section are considered equally applicable to payment of the minimum hourly wage required by section 6 or of the wages required by the equal pay provisions of section 6(d), and to payment, when overtime is worked, of the compensation required by section 7. Thus, in determining whether he has met the minimum wage and overtime requirements of the Act, the employer may credit himself with the reasonable cost to himself of board, lodging, or other facilities customarily furnished by him to his employees when the cost of such board, lodging, or other facilities is not excluded from wages paid to such employees under the term of a bona fide collective bargaining agreement applicable to the employees. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term "wage" is used in this part to designate the amount due under either section 6 or section 7 without distinction. It should be remembered, however, that the wage paid for a job, within the meaning of the equal pay provisions of section 6(d), may include remuneration for employment which is not included in the employee's regular rate of pay under section 7(e) of the act or is not allocable to compensation for hours of work required by the minimum wage provisions of section 6. Reference should be made to parts 778 and 800 of this chapter for a more detailed discussion of the applicable principles.

(c) Tips may be credited or offset against the wages payable under the Act in certain circumstances, as discussed later in this subpart. See also the recordkeeping requirements contained in part 516 of this chapter.

**§ 531.28 Restrictions applicable where payment is not in cash or its equivalent.**

It appears to have been the clear intention of Congress to protect the basic minimum wage and overtime compensation required to be paid to the employee by sections 6 and 7 of the Act from profiteering or manipulation by the employer in dealings with the employee. Section 3(m) of the Act and